Modern education in madarsas

†*546. MS. SUHILA TIRIYA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the students are still bereft of modern education in madarsas;

(b) whether the National Institute of Open Schooling has taken an initiative to provide modern education in madarsas;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government would seek co-operation of progressive Muslim leaders also in this regard so that the young Muslims can also make optimum contribution in the progress of the country;

(e) if so, the steps taken by Government in this direction; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (f) No Sir; Madarsas which volunteer to teach modern subjects like Science, Mathematics, English and Social Studies etc. in addition to their traditional curriculum, are provided financial assistance through the respective State Government for 'Honorarium' to teachers in the modern subjects, teaching aids and book-banks. The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) under its programme, 'Reach the Un-reached' has proposed a programme for modern education on distance learning mode for madarsas volunteering for the same. Under the programme of 'Reach the Un-reached' the NIOS proposes to establish and strengthen linkages with madarsas to provide modern and vocational education according to the NIOS curriculum. It will launch special advocacy programmes in the areas of concentration of Muslim population, in order to increase awareness and involve the community and to enable madarsas volunteering to adopt the NIOS model of curriculum and teaching methodology for modern subjects, to do so without affecting their traditional programmes of study. The National Monitoring Committee on Minorities Education (NMCME) has formed a Group of Experts to interact with community leaders and intellectuals, Madarsa Managements and other stake holders to provide inputs to the Government for redesigning of the existing Madarsa Modernization Programme. The Group has submitted its Report and the same has been accepted by the Government for recasting the Programme.

Increase in suicides by students

*547. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of suicide by students in the country are increasing, particularly during examinations;

(b) whether around 6,000 students committed suicide across the country during 2006, due to exam stress;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi